



A Publication
of the

TENNESSEE ECONOMIC COUNCIL ON WOMEN

December 2013



Women Come Together in 2013, Move Forward in 2014



More than 450 women and men attended the 2013 Economic Summit for Women and the Vision 2020 Delegate Congress, in Nashville, Tennessee.

Tennessee was home to a special moment in the national movement for gender equity in civic and business leadership this October, at the 10th Annual Economic Summit for Women. For the first time, the Economic Summit's presenters, the Tennessee Economic Council on Women (TECW) and the Women's Economic Council Foundation (WECF), joined with Vision 2020, a national coalition committed to achieving

women's economic and social equality, to hold the coalition's Regional Delegate Congress in partnership with the Nashville-area Summit.

The theme of the Congress was *Vision 2020: Collaborating for Change*, a discussion of the national and state strategies and networks striving to bring women to 50-50 parity by the year 2020, when Americans will celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of women's right to vote. "With attendees traveling from all over the Southeast, this united effort allowed several organizations to present a strong program on issues affecting women's economic and social strength, and to return to their respective states with the knowledge and practices shared by their peers across the region," said Mary Flannery, Director of Communications for Vision 2020.

In This Issue...

TECW & Vision 2020	1
Message from the Exec. Director	1
Violence Against Women Well-Received, Resource Center in 2014	2
Thank You to Our Summit Sponsors	4

NOTICE: Winter Quarterly Meeting
to be held 01/10/14, at 10:30am at
the Nashville YWCA.

Message from Executive Director Phyllis Qualls-Brooks

Dear Colleagues,

We have accomplished much together in 2013. We held statewide hearings on violence against women; gathering information, advocating about this issue, and connecting with others to provide needed information to policymakers, service providers, victims, survivors and the general public.



We travelled more than 2,500 miles across the state and garnered media attention both within and outside of Tennessee. We spoke and many listened.

The 2013 Economic Summit for Women brought the year's culminating event: the release of the official [violence against women report](#). Additionally the 2013 Hall of Fame Induction Luncheon has been highly praised as a major event for Tennessee. Thanks to these and other great activities, attendees left inspired, encouraged and invigorated. We sincerely thank our partners and sponsors for their role in the Summit and we extend congratulations to Yvonne Wood, TECW Chair and Summit Director, for her exemplary leadership.

In 2014, we will continue to spread the word about the Economic Impact of Violence Against Women and will begin a new round of research dealing with Women & Work. This will be a great opportunity to continue to help women, children and families.

Thanks for the memories and now we forge ahead for new experiences.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phyllis".

...Continued on Page 3

Violence Against Women Study Receives Nationwide Response, Resource Center Planned for 2014



The Economic Impact of Violence Against Women in Tennessee

How the direct costs of Tennessee's

most common violent crimes

are weighing down our economy

and tearing down a gender; with

recommendations toward prevention

2013

The Tennessee Economic Council on Women traveled throughout the state in 2013 to gather information about the economic impact of violence against women and the response to this study has not only been great statewide but nationwide as well.

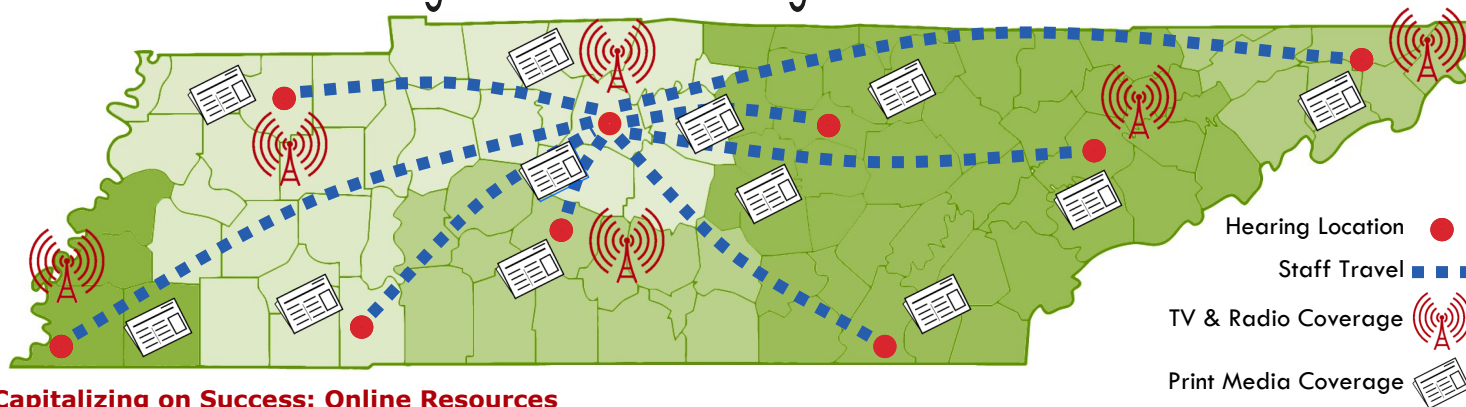
Based in Nashville, TECW staff traveled more than 2,500 miles in 2013 to reach into each of the state's nine development districts for input. Hearings were held in Chattanooga, Columbia, Crossville, Jackson, Johnson City, Knoxville, Memphis, Nashville, and Trenton, and hundreds of Tennesseans attended.

The Council is pleased to report that the hearings and resultant study—which

identified nearly \$1 billion in annual costs related to domestic and sexual violence statewide—inspired television, radio, internet and print media stories all over Tennessee and the nation.

"Of course, it is gratifying to have our work well-received, but the real value is in sharing this crucial information," says TECW Executive Director Phyllis Qualls-Brooks. "Domestic and sexual violence, and sex trafficking especially, are characterized by a lack of awareness in the community. The better we understand these problems, the more effectively we can respond to them and ensure that Tennessee women are not only safe, but well positioned to achieve economic success."

Violence Against Women Hearings and Media in Tennessee



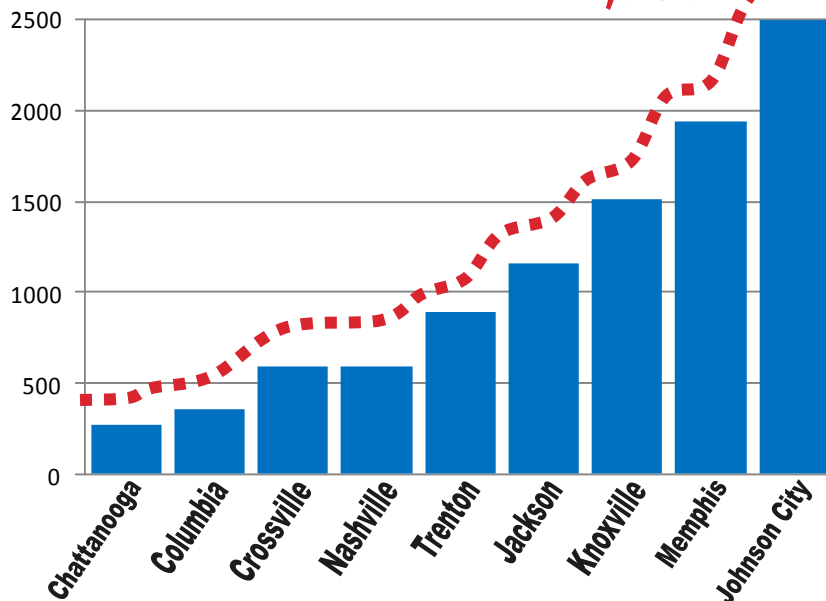
Capitalizing on Success: Online Resources

The current system by which Tennesseans receive assistance after victimization consists largely of a patchwork of independent non-profit organizations across the state, and, unfortunately, the provision of services is not uniform across the state, nor is there a unified method to find available aid.

Building on the success and exposure of the Violence Against Women study, The TECW has begun work to create a statewide online resource center that will enhance survivors' access to social services and increase the economic stability of Tennesseans by promoting intervention and recovery. The site will serve as a single point of entry to learn about local support services in a timely and intuitive manner, while also providing a database of information about the availability and need for services that can drive understanding and response planning across Tennessee.

The resource center is expected to go live in 2014, with more details to be announced.

Cumulative Miles Travelled: 2,508



Moving Forward in 2014, Continued...



Mary Flannery welcomes attendees to the 2013 Summit and Vision 2020 Congress.

...Continued from Page 1

During the Congress, several presentations focused on women running for elected office and the promotion of female participation on corporate and non-profit boards. Deedee Corradini, former Mayor of Salt Lake City and a Vision 2020 Delegate in Utah, explained Utah's non-partisan initiative, *Real Women Run*, and shared local efforts to encourage and prepare more women to run for public office. "We had sessions where more than 500 women attended to learn the many factors of running for office; we answered the questions why, who, where, when and how," said Corradini.

According to the initiative, the biggest challenge to women in Utah is not running a successful campaign, but making the decision to run at all in the face of domestic and household responsibilities; once they've chosen to run, women in Utah are said to achieve rates of success similar to men, yet only 17 percent of Utah's state officials are women – slightly less than the rate in Congress (approximately 19 percent).

Unfortunately, women make up just slightly more than 14 percent of Tennessee's General Assembly, though among them is the first female Speaker of the Tennessee House, Speaker Beth Harwell. Tennesseans

can also be proud of a number of women who currently serve as mayors across the state. Four of these women: Mayors Kim McMillan (Clarksville), Madeline Rogero (Knoxville), Jo Ann Graves (Gallatin), and Mayor Sharon Goldsworthy (Germantown)—each the first woman to hold their office—made a historic appearance at the Summit and spoke of the challenges and triumphs in their careers.

Yvonne Wood, Chair of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women and a Vision 2020 Delegate, explained why there is a clear need to put more women on boards. "Women are a hugely significant component of our economy. Not only do they make up nearly half of Tennessee's workforce, research indicates that they also handle a significant majority of the spending on goods and services in the average American household."

"Despite their presence in the workplace and their tremendous importance as a consumer group," says Delegate and WECF member Pat Pierce, who led the discussion on boards and commissions, "the vast majority of corporations in America have little or no female presence in their leadership. Beyond the matter of equality, this is increasingly revealed to be disadvantageous to economic growth and must end."

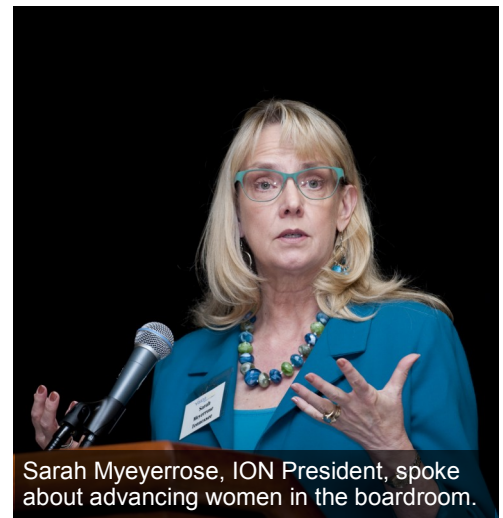
Studies show that diversity among corporate leaders and on boards is linked to improved governance practices and financial success. During the Regional Congress, Katy Sheesley and Lisa Shacklett, who serve as Co-Chairs of the local Women on Corporate Boards initiative, a program of Nashville CABLE, presented information about this historically delicate, yet persistent issue.

Sarah Meyerrose, ION Board President, focused on how crucial it is for women to advance in the boardroom in both the for-profit and non-profit

worlds, the latter of which is commonly left out of these discussions despite having a dramatic impact on the policies and programs established all around us. ION, or InterOrganization Network, was established in 2004 to advance women to the boardroom.

"Our goal is to renew our collective resolve to dramatically increase the pace of change toward achieving gender diversity in positions of power," said Meyerrose.

Veronica Marable Johnson, president



Sarah Meyerrose, ION President, spoke about advancing women in the boardroom.

of the Coalition of 100 Black Women, Nashville Metropolitan Chapter and a member of the TECW encapsulated the purpose of the event: "In achieving gender equity on boards and commissions, we are working to ensure that women of all colors are prepared for a seat at the table and an office in the 'C-Suite'."

Women make up 51 percent of the population in Tennessee, which reveals a significant leveraging power and a tremendous population of innovators who are not being effectively incentivized by the current economy.

"That power –economic and creative, should not be ignored," Johnson added.



Thank you to our 2013 Summit Partners!

Tenth Annual Economic Summit for Women & Vision 2020 Regional Congress



Vision2020
EQUALITY IN SIGHT®

Premier
Partner



Saint Thomas Health

WITH YOU. FOR LIFE.



THE UNIVERSITY of
TENNESSEE **UT**
INSTITUTE for
PUBLIC SERVICE



The Tennessee Tribune
Middle Tennessee's Leading Black Newspaper



at&t



Presented By
the **WOMENS ECONOMIC COUNCIL FOUNDATION** 

For more information, go to www.tnwomensummit.org Today!